

Maine NRCS 2015 Financial Assistance Program-General Fund Pool Screening Criteria Worksheet

All eligible applications to the 2015 AMA and EQIP local and statewide category fund pools must be evaluated using this worksheet. Eligible Applications for National Initiative fund pools (National Water Quality Initiative, On-Farm Energy, Organic, and Working Lands for Wildlife) shall NOT be evaluated using this worksheet, but rather the screening worksheet specific to the Initiative (if one is developed).

Instructions:

This screening worksheet must be completed for each **eligible** application for FY 2015 funding consideration in one of the Financial Assistance (FA) programs listed above. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and program benefits are efficiently allocated to address prioritized conservation needs. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide NRCS FA program benefits nor approval of a FA program contract. This screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant's case file and the screening priority (High, Medium, or Low) shall be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of the screening worksheet will be provided to the applicant. Initially, **only HIGH priority applications will be ranked and considered for funding.** MEDIUM priority applications in a particular funding category will be ranked and considered for funding ONLY if funds remain available and all HIGH priority applications within the category are funded or otherwise not being considered (deferred, cancelled, etc.). LOW priority applications will not be ranked.

Screening Criteria Worksheet - Complete for each eligible EQIP and AMA applicant

Applicant Name:	County:	
Application Number:	Field Office:	

For each eligible application, complete the following worksheet.

Step One - Evaluation	Yes or N/A?	Action:	No?	Action
A Is the application form NRCS CPA 1200 complete, signed and dated? Are the applicant and land eligible? The applicant has provided documentation and evidence to indicate all eligibility criteria for the program has been met, including land control and "other eligibility" specific to the program? If entity with EIN tax id, SAM.gov registration is current? Was the application submitted on or before the cut-off deadline for 2015 funding consideration?		Yes to all= Keep going: Continue To B		No to any part = STOP : Do not process until application is complete and eligible. If not complete and eligible by end of ranking period, change application status to "Ineligible" in ProTracts.
B Was the application preapproved for funding in 2014, but was included in the carry-over for obligation in 2015?		Yes = STOP : Application is HIGH priority and must be placed in Carry-Over subaccount.		No = Continue to C and complete the screening process
C If a CAP application, is there a Maine Certified NRCS TSP registered to write the CAP in their area (as indicated on TSP resume' posted in TechReg)?		Yes or N/A = Keep going: Continue to E		No = STOP : Application is Low Priority. Continue to Step 2.
D Will the proposed practices address two or more eligible resource concerns (i.e., Air Quality Impacts, Degraded Plant Condition, Excess Water, Fish and Wildlife, Inefficient Energy Use, Insufficient Water, Livestock Production Limitation, Soil Erosion, Soil Quality Degradation, Water Quality Degradation)? If application is for Seasonal High Tunnel only under EQIP or for Deer Exclusion Fence under AMA, skip to E		Yes or for Seasonal High Tunnel only applications = Keep going: Continue To E		No = Continue to D-1
D-1 : Application is addressing only one resource concern?		Yes = Application is Medium Priority at this point. Continue to E		No = STOP : Application is ineligible
E The applicant has not had a NRCS Financial Assistance Program agreement contract terminated for a non-compliance reason (other than loss of control of the land due to hardship) during the previous 5 fiscal years (2010-2014)?		Yes, applicant has NO terminations for non-compliance within the last 5 years = Keep going: Continue to F		No, the applicant HAS had a termination for non-compliance within the last 5 years = STOP : Application is Low Priority. Continue to Step 2.
F If the applicant has active contracts, there are none that have had more than two rescheduling modifications?		Yes, the applicant has NO active contracts with more than two rescheduling modifications = Application is High priority . Continue to Step 2.		No, the applicant DOES have one or more active contracts with more than two rescheduling modifications = Keep going: Continue to G
G If the applicant has active contracts, there are none that have had more than three rescheduling modifications.?		Yes, the applicant has NO active contracts with more than three rescheduling modifications = Application is Medium priority . Continue to Step 2.		No, the applicant DOES have one or more active contracts with more than three rescheduling modifications = Application is Low Priority . Continue to Step 2.

Step 2 - Priority determination for ProTracts - Select One:

High Priority Category:	
All answers to Step One questions A, and C thru F are answered Yes or N/A = mark application as High priority in ProTracts and proceed with ranking .	
Medium Priority Category:	
All answers to Step One questions A, C, and E are answered Yes or N/A, question D is answered "No" and D-1 is answered "Yes"; OR question F is answered "No" and question G is answered "Yes" = mark application as Medium priority in ProTracts and DO NOT RANK at this time.	
Low Priority Category:	
Answers to one of the Step One questions C, E or G is answered No = mark application as Low priority in ProTracts and DO NOT RANK !	
INELIGIBLE:	
Answers to one of the Step One questions A or D-1 is answered No = Change status of application to INELIGIBLE in ProTracts and DO NOT RANK !	
If changes are made to make the application eligible prior to ranking deadline, you must re-do the screening to determine priority setting.	
The priority determination of High, Medium or Low must be recorded in Protracts for this application	
Evaluator Signature:	Date:
Notes:	